

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-containing sample, which comprises:

- (a) providing a chaotrope;
- (b) providing a nucleic acid binding solid phase capable of binding nucleic acid in the presence of the chaotrope;
- (c) providing a source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 ;
- (d) contacting the sample with the nucleic acid binding solid phase in the presence of a liquid phase comprising the chaotrope and the NH_4^+ or NH_3 ; and
- (e) optionally separating the solid phase with the nucleic acid bound thereto from the liquid phase.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, which further comprises a step of eluting the nucleic acid from the solid phase.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the sample comprises a biological sample.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 3, wherein the biological sample comprises a cellular sample.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~, which further comprises a lysis step comprising subjecting the biological sample to conditions to lyse the sample.

6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the NH_4^+ or NH_3 is present during the lysis step.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the nucleic acid comprises DNA.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the DNA comprises ds or ss DNA.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the nucleic acid comprises RNA.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the RNA comprises rRNA, mRNA or total RNA.

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the chaotrope comprises a guanidinium salt, urea, ~~or an~~ iodide, chlorate, perchlorate or (iso)thiocyanate.

12. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the nucleic acid binding solid phase comprises a silica-based solid phase.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the solid phase is magnetic.

14. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 comprises a solution of ammonia.

15. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 and the chaotrope are provided together as a solution.

16. (Original) A kit for isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-containing sample, which kit comprises:

- (a) a chaotrope;
- (b) a nucleic acid binding solid phase capable of binding nucleic acid in the presence of the chaotrope; and
- (c) a source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 .

17. (Original) A kit according to claim 16, which further comprises a solution for eluting the nucleic acid from the solid phase.

18. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 16 ~~or claim 17~~, which further comprises a lysis solution for lysing biological samples.

19. (Currently Amended) A kit according to ~~any of claims 16 to 18~~, wherein the nucleic acid binding solid phase comprises a silica-based solid phase.

20. (Currently Amended) A kit according to ~~any of claims 16 to 19~~, wherein the solid phase is magnetic.

21. (Currently Amended) A kit according to ~~any of claims 16 to 20~~, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 comprises a solution of ammonia.

22. (Currently Amended) A kit according to ~~any of claims 16 to 21~~, wherein the source of NH_4^+ or NH_3 and the chaotrope are provided together as a solution.